

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Incorporated

BRUCE B. ELLSWORTH, *President*
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
8 Old Suncook Road, Building No. 1
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319

JOLYNN BARRY BUTLER, *First Vice President*
Ohio Public Utilities Commission

JIM SULLIVAN, *Second Vice President*
Alabama Public Service Commission



MARGARET A. WELSH
Executive Director

GAILE ARGIRO
Treasurer

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 4, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

William Caton
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

RE: EX PARTE FILING

**In the Matter of Changes to the Board of Directors of
the National Exchange Carrier Association, CC Docket
97-21**

**In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal
Service, CC Docket 96-45**

Dear Mr. Caton:

Today, I hand-delivered copies of the attached correspondence to the office of each FCC Commissioner and to the offices of Gina Keeney, Kathy Levitz, Mary Beth Richards, and Richard Metzger of the FCC Common Carrier Bureau.

In accordance with the FCC's rules of practice and procedure, I am filing two copies of each letter in the dockets listed above.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202.898.2207.

Sincerely,

James Bradford Ramsay
Assistant General Counsel

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April 4, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

RE: State Representation on

- (a) the Federal Advisory Council Created to Designate and Supervise a Universal Service Fund Administrator, and**
- (b) the Board of Directors of Both the Interim and Permanent Universal Fund Administrator**

Dear Chairman Hundt:

In Sections 254 and 214 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress acknowledged the need for broad State commission input into the implementation of its revised universal service policy. We appreciate the FCC's continued recognition of the important role States must play in implementing these and other sections of the Act.

Paragraphs 829 - 830 of the Universal Service Joint Board's Recommended Decision (RD) suggests the FCC create, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, a universal service Federal Advisory Council to ". . .select, oversee, and provide guidance to. . ." any permanent neutral third party administrator. {Emphasis Added} The RD also suggests the Federal Advisory Council advise the interim administrator.

NARUC agrees with the RD's recommendation that the Federal Advisory Council must include State utility commission representatives. We also agree the Federal Advisory Council should play an important supervisory function somewhat like the North American Numbering Council.

The Honorable Reed Hundt

April 4, 1997

Page Two


Because of the critical importance of the Council's supervisory duties to State interests, we respectfully request that you include at least three State Commission positions on the Federal Advisory Council.

The Board of Directors of the entity chosen on either an interim or permanent basis to administer the universal service fund will also play a critical and influential role in the development of procedures for the collection and distribution of funds among the States. Accordingly, NARUC also respectfully requests that two State commissioners be included on the Board of Directors of both the interim and permanent administrator.

Sincerely,

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Bruce B. Ellsworth
NARUC President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Margaret A. Welsh". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large initial "M" and "W".

Margaret A. Welsh
NARUC Executive Director

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April 4, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

RE: State Representation on

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The Honorable Susan Ness

April 4, 1997

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April 4, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

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The Honorable Rachelle Chong

April 4, 1997

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April 4, 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

RE: State Representation on

- (a) the Federal Advisory Council Created to Designate and Supervise a Universal Service Fund Administrator, and**
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Dear Commissioner James Quello:

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The Honorable James Quello
April 4, 1997 Correspondence
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